

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. By this Amendment, the independent claims have been amended to more specifically recite the structural relationship between the various components.

Specifically, the independent claims have been amended to recite that each of the plurality of firewalls protects the internal protection domain relative to the external protection domain, and each of the internal and external protection domains comprise one or more of networks and subnetworks and machines. Support for these amendments can at least be found in Fig. 1 of the specification.

Independent Claim 11 further recites that in response to a request to access a destination network resource received from a source network resource, determining whether to apply the access control rule specified for the resource group associated with the destination network resource based on the scope of the access control rule.

Independent Claim 23 is directed toward a system for controlling access to network resources wherein a central configuration machine, coupled to the external network, is adaptively configured to, *inter alia*: define an internal protection domain, create a plurality of resource groups, specify an access control rule and configure each firewall using the access control rules.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Reid or Antur teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are clearly distinguishable from the references of record and requests a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T3264-906761) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JHV:jab

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